SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

On page 1, after the title, please replace the priority claim with the following replacement paragraph:

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/445,985 filed February 7, 2003. This invention was made with partial Government support under NSF CAREER award CHE 9816155. The Government may have certain rights in this invention.

On page 3, please replace the final (partial) paragraph, beginning on line 17 and bridging over to page 4, with the following replacement paragraph:

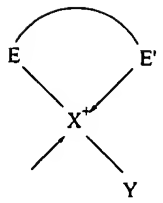
In one aspect of the invention a chemical compound is provided, comprising the general formula $L\{YX_m\}_n$. [[X]] Y may be selected from the Group 13 elements consisting of boron, aluminum, gallium, indium, and tellurium. [[Y]] X may be selected from the halide group consisting of fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine, and astatine. L is typically a chelating ligand containing at least one binding atom contacting the Group 13 element, the atom selected from the group consisting of C, N, O, and S, and m and n are integers having a value of at least 1.

On page 4, please replace the first paragraph beginning on line 2 with the following replacement paragraph:

In another aspect, L may be a Schiff base-containing ligand. [[X]] Y may be selected from the Group 13 elements consisting of boron, aluminum, gallium, indium, and tellurium, and [[Y]] X may be selected from the halide group consisting of fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine, and astatine. In one embodiment, L may be a salen ligand which is bidentate, quadridentate, or greater. Typically, L is selected from the group consisting of Salen (^{t}Bu), Salpen (^{t}Bu), Salben (^{t}Bu), and Salhen (^{t}Bu).

On page 4, please replace the final (partial) paragraph, beginning on line 23 and bridging over to page 5, with the following replacement paragraph:

Yet still further, the present invention provides a catalytic method for dealkylation of a phosphate ester or an ether, comprising contacting the phosphate ester or ether with a compound comprising the general formula $L\{YX_m\}_n$ wherein [[X]] Y is selected from the Group 13 elements consisting of boron, aluminum, gallium, indium, and tellurium, [[Y]] X is selected from the halide group consisting of fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine, and astatine, L is a chelating ligand containing at least two molecules E and E' contacting the Group 13 element, the molecules E and E' being selected from the group consisting of C, N, O, and S, and m and n are integers having a value of at least 1. Typically, the compound generates a cationic intermediate upon contacting the phosphate ester or ether, the cationic intermediate having the general formula:



As described above, L may be a Schiff base-containing ligand, such as a salen ligand. L may be a bidentate ligand, a quadridentate ligand, or greater. In one embodiment, L is selected from the group consisting of Salen (^{t}Bu), Salpen (^{t}Bu), Salben (^{t}Bu), and Salhen (^{t}Bu). The reaction is rendered catalytic by conducting it in the presence of BBr_3. The phosphate ester or ether and BBr_3 may be added in equimolar amounts. The dealkylation reaction may be conducted at ambient temperature.